

[54] **MOLECULES WITH ENHANCED ELECTRONIC POLARIZABILITIES BASED ON "DEFECT"-LIKE STATES IN CONJUGATED POLYMERS**

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[52] U.S. Cl. 528/220; 528/222; 528/225; 528/227; 528/228; 528/230; 528/233; 528/236; 528/243; 525/398; 525/401; 525/402

[58] Field of Search 528/220, 222, 225, 227, 528/228, 230, 233, 236, 243; 525/398, 401, 402

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Primary Examiner—Morton Foelak

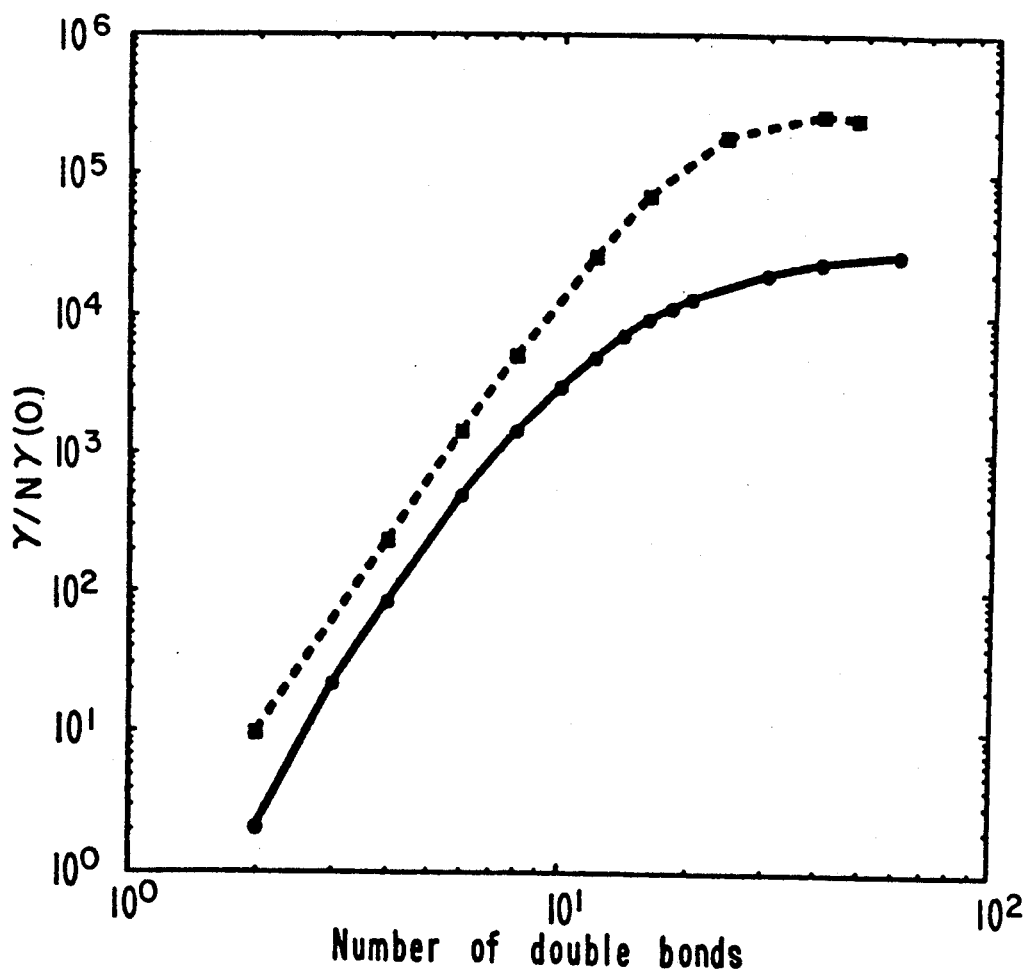
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[57] ABSTRACT

Highly conjugated organic polymers typically have large non-resonant electronic susceptibilities, which give the molecules unusual optical properties. To enhance these properties, "defects" are introduced into the polymer chain. Examples include light doping of the conjugated polymer and synthesis, conjugated polymers which incorporate either electron donating or accepting groups, and conjugated polymers which contains a photoexcitable species capable of reversibly transferring its electron to an acceptor. Such defects in the chain permit enhancement of the second hyperpolarizability by at least an order of magnitude.

23 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets



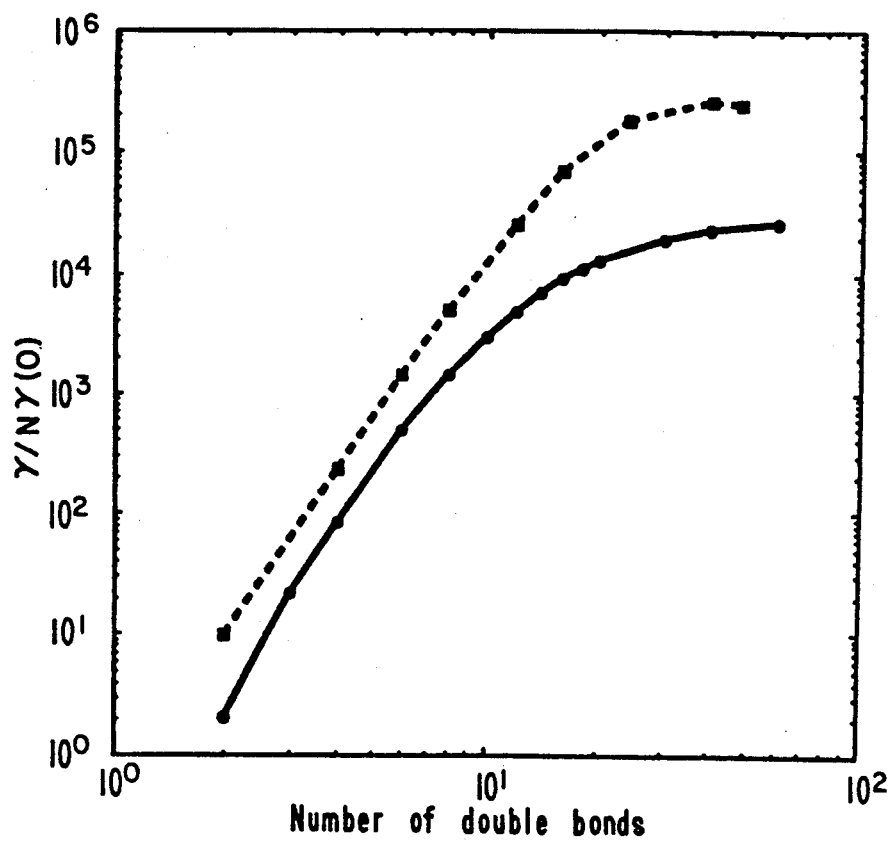


Fig. 1.

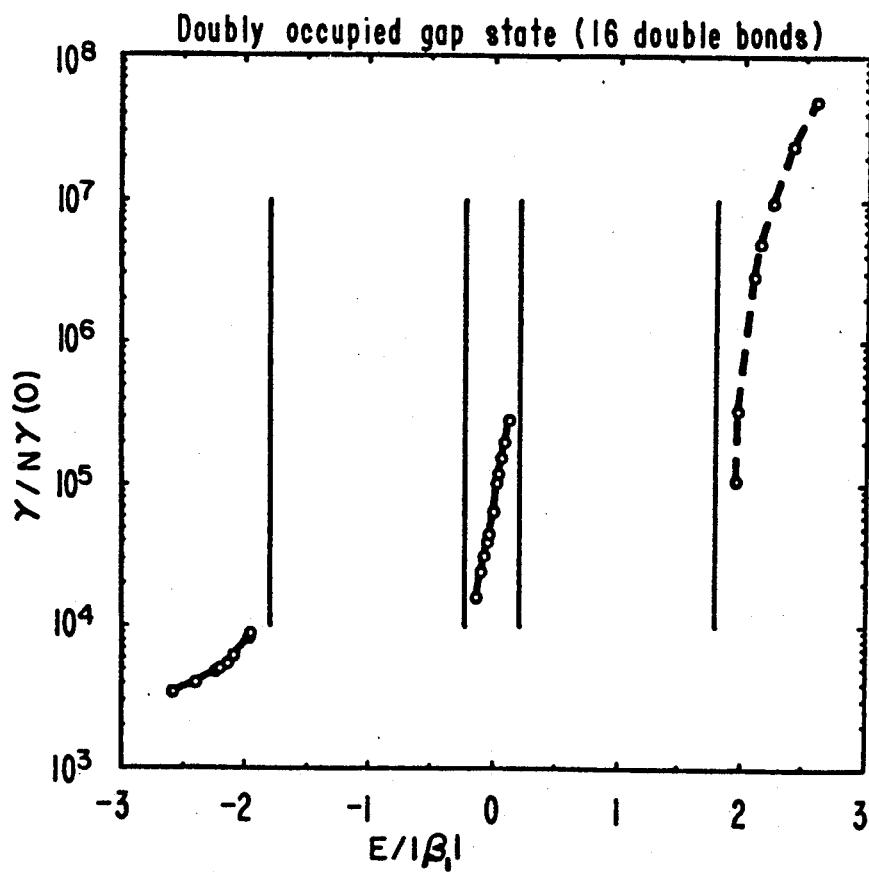


Fig. 2a.

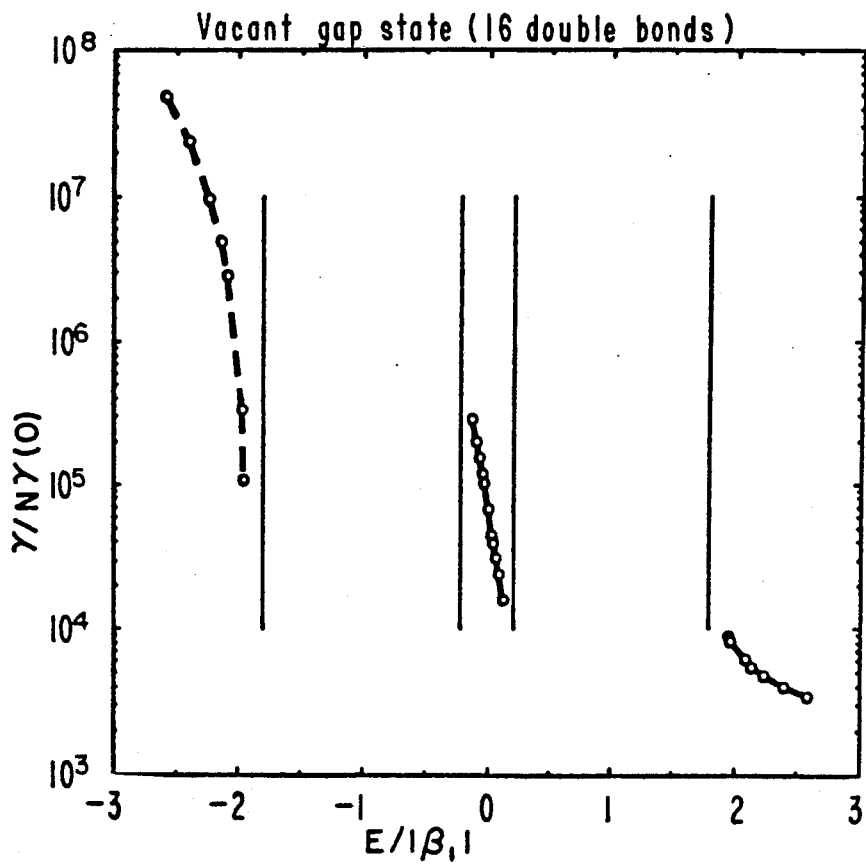


Fig. 2b.

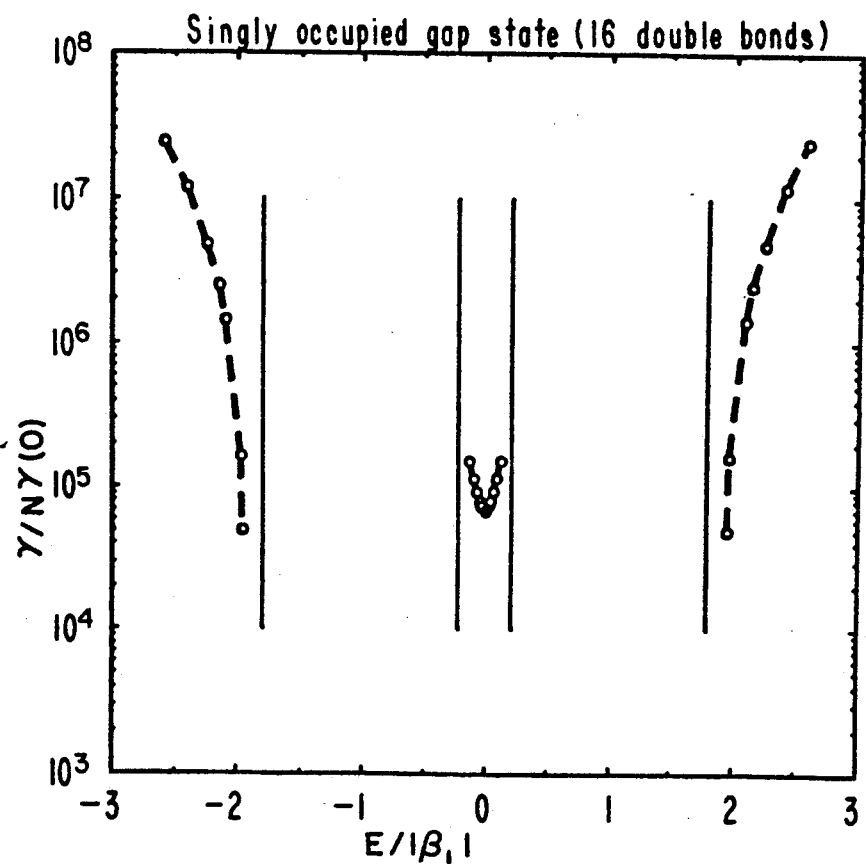
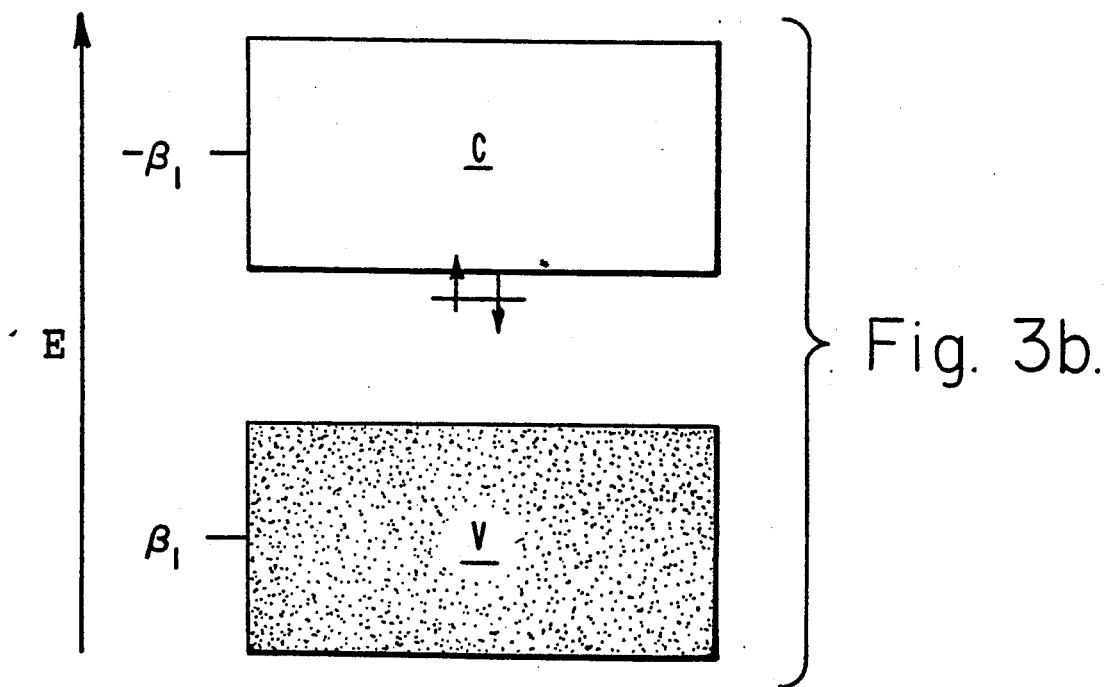
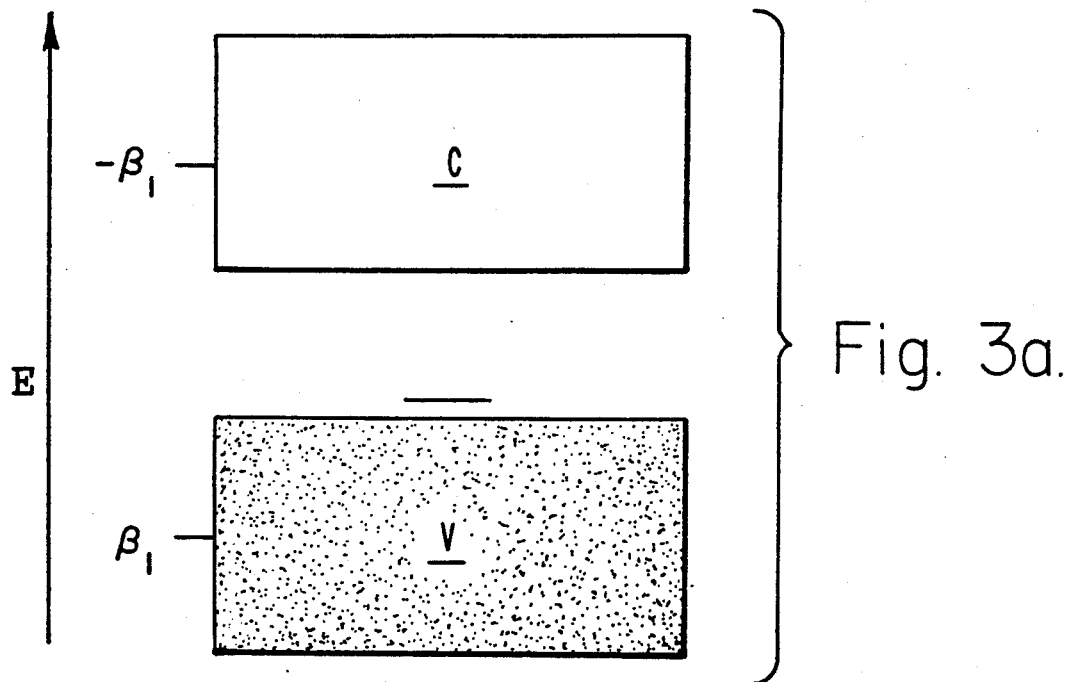


Fig. 2c.



MOLECULES WITH ENHANCED ELECTRONIC POLARIZABILITIES BASED ON "DEFECT"-LIKE STATES IN CONJUGATED POLYMERS

ORIGIN OF THE INVENTION

The invention described herein was made in the performance of work under a NASA contract, and is subject to the provisions of Public Law 96-517 (35 U.S.C. 202) in which the Contractor has elected not to retain title.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The invention relates to non-linear optical materials, and in particular, to significantly increasing the electronic second hyperpolarizability of highly conjugated organic polymers to enhance their non-linear optical properties, thereby making many all-optical, ultra-fast devices feasible.

BACKGROUND ART

In the field of non-linear optics, the relationship between the polarization induced in a molecule (p) and the electric field components of incident electromagnetic waves (E) is approximately given by

$$p = \alpha \cdot E + \beta \cdot EE + \gamma \cdot EEE + \dots$$

Since p and E are vector quantities, α , β , γ , etc., are tensors.

A similar expression can be written for the polarization induced in an ensemble of molecules in the liquid, solid, or gas phase. In this case, with the electric field dipole approximations, the polarization P is written as

$$P = \chi^{(1)} \cdot E + \chi^{(2)} \cdot EE + \chi^{(3)} \cdot EEE + \dots$$

The coefficients $\chi^{(1)}$, etc., are tensors with similar meanings in relation to the molecular quantities, except that they describe the polarization induced in the ensemble.

There are several non-linear effects occurring through $\chi^{(3)}$. These include third harmonic generation (THG), optical bistability resulting from light-intensity-induced changes in the refractive index of the medium in a resonant cavity, and optical phase conjugation, which results from a degenerate four-wave mixing process by which two beams interfere to form a phase grating, and the complex conjugate of the phase front of the incoming beam is created as an outgoing beam. These effects are implemented as optical switching devices, optical modulators, and optical computing elements, for example.

Highly conjugated organic polymers typically have large non-resonant electronic susceptibilities ($\chi^{(3)}$), which give the molecules unusual optical properties. It is desired to enhance these properties.

While some enhancement has been achieved by decreasing the bandgap of the material and increasing the bandwidths, such strategies do not lead to the significant enhancement desired.

STATEMENT OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is an object of the invention to provide highly conjugated organic polymers having large enhancements of the second hyperpolarizability, $\chi^{(3)}$.

It is also an object of the invention to provide materials with switchable second hyperpolarizabilities in

which the magnitude and/or sign can be modified in a reversible or irreversible fashion.

In accordance with the invention, introduction of "defects" in highly conjugated organic polymers, on either a permanent or transient time scale, enhances the second hyperpolarizability. By introducing gap states with the appropriate energy, order of magnitude changes in $\chi^{(3)}$ are possible. These states can be produced by light doping of the conjugated polymer (an irreversible process), by synthesis of materials containing donor and/or acceptor groups which interact with the π -electron system, or by the synthesis of a conjugated polymer which contains a photoexcitable species in conjugation with the polymer which could reversibly transfer its electron to an acceptor.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a plot, on coordinates of molecular hyperpolarizability density and chain length, of a polyene with N double bonds (solid line) and a polyene with N double bonds and a central conjugation defect (dashed line) in accordance with the invention.

FIGS. 2a-c are plots, on coordinates of hyperpolarizability density and energy of the gap state, of the dependence of the hyperpolarizability density as a function of the energy of the most localized of the three states split from the bands by mixing them with the central atom.

FIGS. 3a and 3b are schematic representations of energy states which give rise to increased hyperpolarizability.

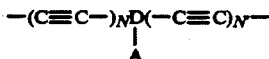
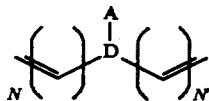
DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

As used herein, β denotes the coupling between carbon atoms in a chain, and typically ranges from about 3 to 4 eV. β_1 is the coupling between orbitals in a single bond, while β_2 is the coupling between orbitals in a double bond. Δ is the electron affinity of an isolated functional group (here, X) relative to an isolated carbon atom. Δ is given in terms of eV, and when divided by β , yields a dimensionless number.

γ is the cubic (second) hyperpolarizability. $\gamma(0)$ is the second hyperpolarizability of ethylene, while $\gamma/N\gamma(0) = \gamma'_{xxxx}$ is the second hyperpolarizability density of a polyene, where N is the number of double bonds in the chain.

When a single carbon conjugation defect is introduced into a polyene chain, γ'_{xxxx} is enhanced by about one order of magnitude (for long chains) or less and the sign is unchanged. The effect is independent (in this approximation) of the ionization state of the defect. Often, the coulomb energy of a defect site is parameterized to reflect the orbital occupancy, and this would eliminate the cancellation (see FIG. 2c). Non-carbon substituents can be incorporated in conjugated polymers and this would alter Δ as well. The potential enhancement of γ'_{xxxx} for such materials is substantially larger. One might imagine chemically derivatizing the chain, resulting in a C-R bond at the point of attack. Alternatively, an atom in the chain might be purposefully replaced with a metal or heteroatom. Any of these cases would make the defect orbital energy (Δ) not equal to zero.

There are four basic conjugated structures that may be benefited by the practice of the invention, as shown below. The first two structures (I and II) are polyene, while the last two structures (III and IV) are polyene.



N and N' may be the same or different; thus, the position of X in the chain is not critical. N and N' each range from 0 to 40, and the total of N and N' ranges from 10 to 40.

X may be a heteroatom, a carbon defect (free radical), a benzene ring having an electron donor group thereon, such as tetrathiafulvalene (TTF), or an electron acceptor group thereon, such as cyano ($-C\equiv N$), a pyridine with its the nitrogen atom coordinated to a metal species acting as an electron donor or acceptor, platinum, palladium, or a stable free radical species, such as a nitroxide. If ruthenium, iron, or cobalt is used as the metal species, it may be tuned to a donor or acceptor by changing its oxidation state, as is well-known.

Structure II is a special case of Structure I, where X is replaced by the D-A moiety. "D" refers to donor, while "A" refers to acceptor. Similarly, Structure IV is a special case of Structure III.

Alternatively, the chain may be lightly doped; such doping is at a very low level so that no more than one doping event per chain exists. (If the chain is doped too highly, then the conjugation is disrupted.) The dopant may be one that contributes electrons or accepts electrons from the chain. Examples include AsF_6 and I_2 .

Synthesis of any of the foregoing polymers is considered to be within the capabilities of those skilled in the art, and, accordingly, is not considered a part of this invention.

Typical heteroatom substitutions (oxygen, nitrogen) change Δ to between 1 and 2 (in units of β_1). Such an atom inserted between two polyene segments is expected to cause a decrease in γ'_{xxxx} relative to that of an uninterrupted polyene with the same number of double bonds (see FIG. 1, FIG. 2a, and Table 1, below).

TABLE 1

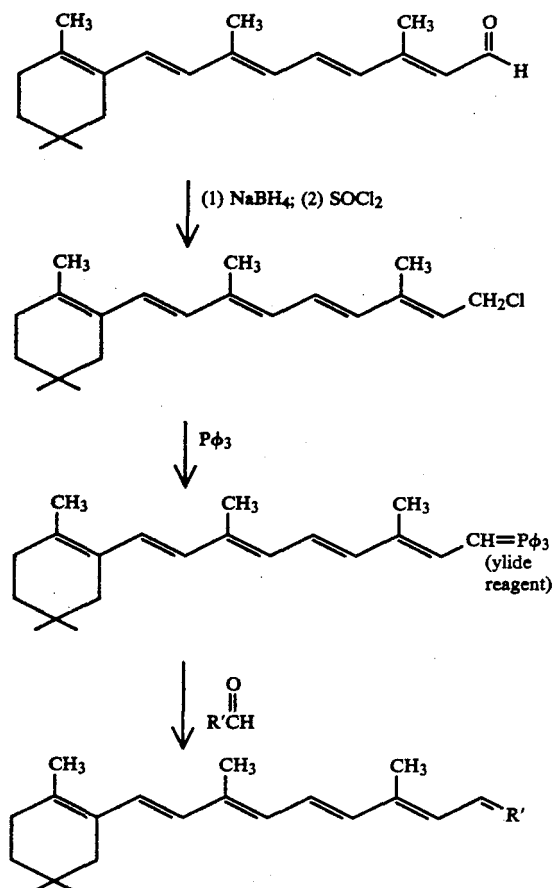
Localized State Energy as a Function of Δ .	
Δ/β_1	$E(\text{localized state})/\beta_1$
± 2.00	± 2.58
± 1.00	± 1.97
± 0.60	± 0.129
± 0.15	± 0.035
0.00	0.00

The defect atom, as in the conjugation defect case, may have a variable number of electrons to interact with the hydrocarbon π cloud. A nitrogen or oxygen free radical in conjugation with the polyene chain(s) is expected to cause an order of magnitude enhancement in γ'_{xxxx} (see FIG. 2c). Similarly, conjugation of stable nitroxide radicals (typical spin labels) with polyenes might lead to analogous enhancements.

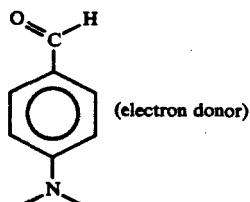
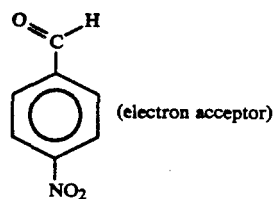
Other strategies for enhancing γ'_{xxxx} would require the attachment of powerful electron "donors" or "acceptors" to the polyene (e.g., carotenes with 11 double bonds). By this is meant groups (donors) with filled energy levels close to the LUMO (lowest unoccupied molecular orbital) of the polyene or vacant energy levels (acceptors) close to HOMO (highest occupied molecular orbital) of the polyene. In contrast to the heteroatoms, these levels would provide localized states in the band gap (of opposite occupancy compared to the nearby band) or could actually reduce (or oxidize) the polyene to yield large hyperpolarizability enhancements. However, considerable loss of transparency well into the near infrared can result from one or two electron oxidation of carotenes. This will be determined by the degree of charge transfer from the carotene. One might expect that attachment of TTF (donor) or TCNQ (7,7,8,8-tetracyanoquinodimethane; acceptor) or derivatives of TTF and/or TCNQ to provide such extreme levels. It is difficult to predict whether formal oxidation (or reduction) will actually occur in these materials based purely on the redox potentials because it is difficult to quantify the effect of ion pairing in oxidized carotenes.

Another class of molecules of possible relevance is organometallics with low energy metal-to-liquid or ligand-to-metal charge transfer bands (MLCT or LMCT bands). These materials also would allow the tuning of the gap state orbital by selecting the oxidation state of the metal or the composition of its ligands. Consider the ruthenium tris(bipyridine) complex with polyene substituted bipyridine ligands, for example. One might expect this system to have relatively low energy charge transfer bands, with the direction of the charge transfer determined by the oxidation state of the metal. Hence, such systems might allow probing of the effect on γ'_{xxxx} of the "defect" state proximity (defined by the oxidation state, ligand, and metal) to either the valence or conduction band.

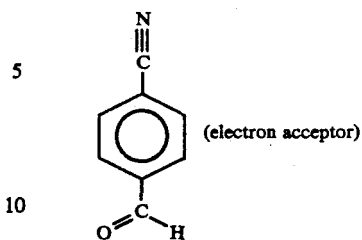
In the existing literature, some discussion of the influence of real excited states on the time response and size of γ'_{xxxx} has been given. Particular attention has been focused on the rise, evolution, and hyperpolarizability of the solitonic state of polyacetylene. The present invention sets forth a new class of transient large γ'_{xxxx} materials that might be made based on molecules having finite excited state lifetimes. Molecules such as Structure II (and IV), in which a relatively long lived charge transfer excited state is created rapidly (picoseconds-microseconds), would create a transient state with particularly enhanced γ'_{xxxx} provided that the charge transfer resulted in either (a) the creation of a partially occupied level very near the valence or conduction states of the polyene or (b) the transient oxidation or reduction of a large conjugated system. Structure II (and IV) is similar in many ways to the so-called "triad" molecules in which electron transfer from an excited porphyrin to a quinone results in transient charge transfer to a carotene molecule (making carotene +/− porphyrin/quinone−) which lives for milliseconds. Such a material would allow γ'_{xxxx} to be switched between two different values. Prior to the creation of the charge transfer excited state, the value of γ'_{xxxx} would be determined by FIG. 2a. Following excitation and charge transfer, and for the duration of the charge transfer excited state lifetime, the hyperpolarizability would be determined by FIG. 2c. Other examples of donor/acceptor pairs are $Ru^{II}/III L_n$ (L = nitrogen-containing



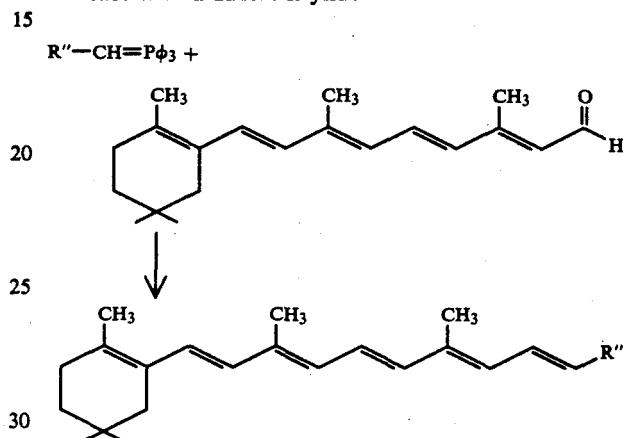
Examples of suitable aldehydes include the following compounds:



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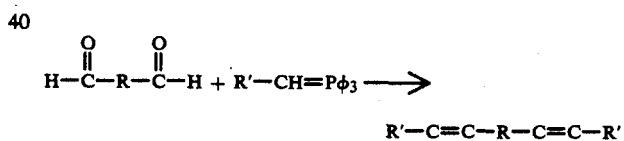


Alternatively, the retinal may be used as the aldehyde to react with a different ylide:



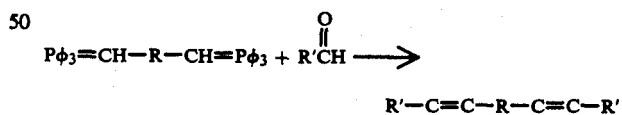
Thus, chains with six double bonds and a "defect"-group at the chain end can be formed (i.e., N or $\text{N}'=0$). This can be done by making an ylide reagent from retinal and reacting it with an aldehyde or by reacting unmodified retinal (itself an aldehyde) with an ylide.

Using a dialdehyde, similar chemistry may be used to put the "defect" in the chain center:

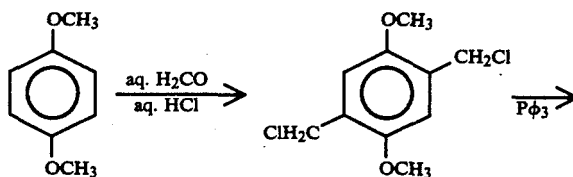


Analogously, a diyliide may be made by:

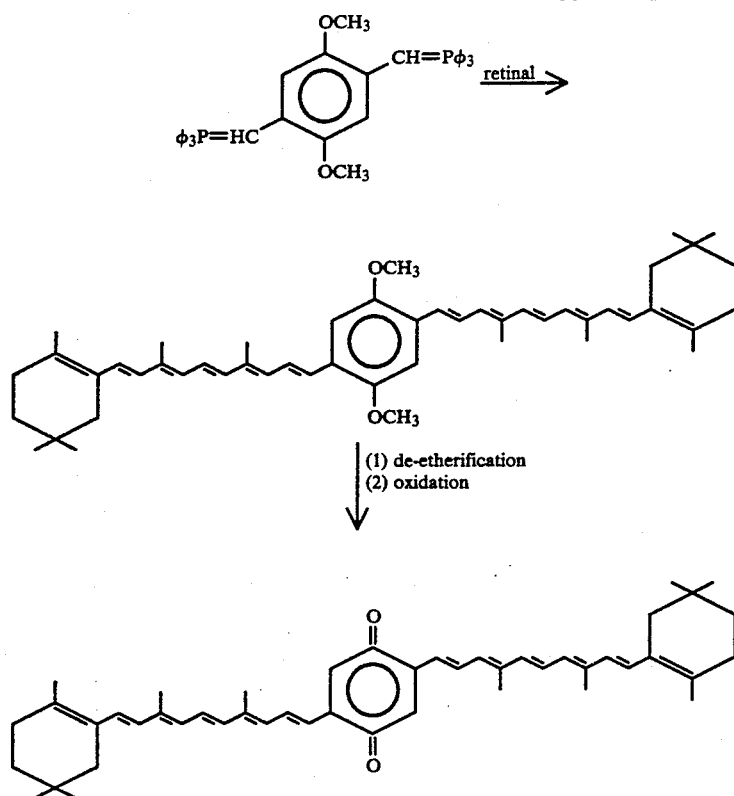
Analogously, a diyliide may be made by:



As an example of a pathway to a real molecule of interest:



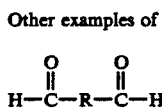
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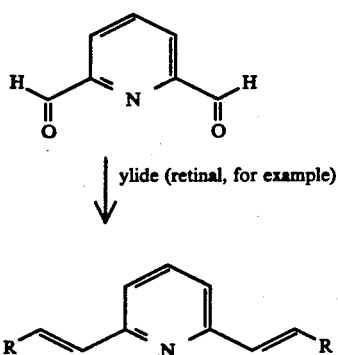
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In the final product, the quinone moiety is a strong electron acceptor. 40

Other examples of

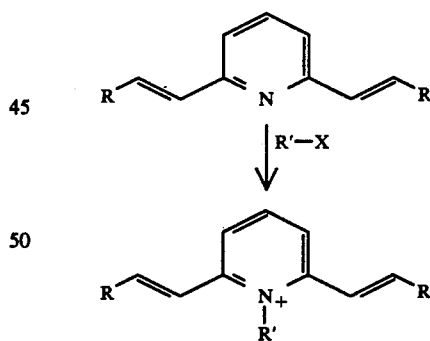


which may be useful include

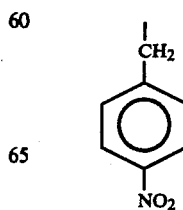


where R is the ylide (retinal, for example).

The defect can be modified by an alkylation reaction:

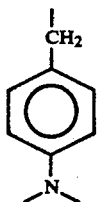
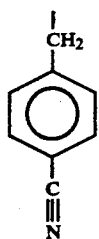


55 The species R' can be an alkyl chain or more complex group; this chemistry per se is well-known. For example, R' can be

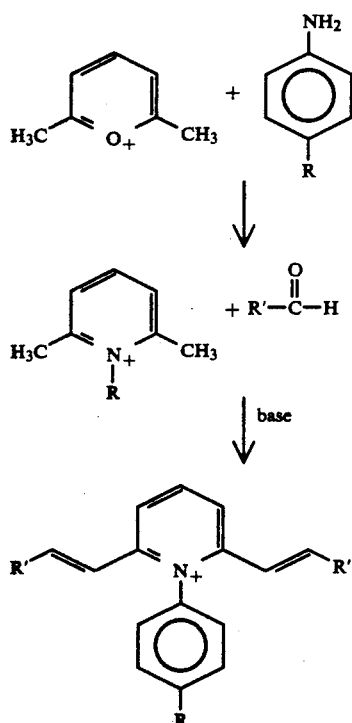


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Another route to these molecules is



where R is a donor or acceptor, such as $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$, or $-\text{N}<$.

Thus, there is disclosed a highly conjugated organic polymer having a changed hyperpolarizability. It will be apparent to those of skill in this art that various changes and modifications of an obvious nature may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of this invention, and all such changes and modifications are considered to fall within the ambit of the invention, as defined by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A highly conjugated organic polymer having a changed hyperpolarizability, said polymer comprising a chain of alternating single and double bonds or alternating single and triple bonds, characterized by the pres-

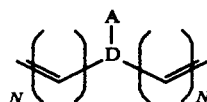
ence of a moiety in the chain which donates or accepts electrons.

2. The polymer of claim 1 having a structure selected from the group consisting of

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10



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III



IV

20

where X is selected from the group consisting of a heteroatom, carbon defect, a benzene ring having an electron donor or electron acceptor attached thereto, a pyridine with its nitrogen coordinated to a metal species acting as an electron donor or electron acceptor, platinum, palladium, and a stable free radical species, and where D is a donor moiety, A is an acceptor moiety, N and N' each range from 0 to 40, and the total of N and N' ranges from 10 to 40.

3. The polymer of claim 2 wherein said heteroatom is selected from the group consisting of oxygen and nitrogen.

4. The polymer of claim 3 having the structure



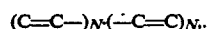
5. The polymer of claim 3 having the structure



6. The polymer of claim 3 having the structure



7. The polymer of claim 3 having the structure



8. The polymer of claim 2 wherein said metal species is selected from the group consisting of ruthenium, iron, and cobalt.

9. The polymer of claim 2 wherein D is selected from the group consisting of tetrathiafulvalene and porphyrin and wherein A is selected from the group consisting of 7,7,8,8-tetracyano-quinodimethane and quinone.

10. A method of increasing the second hyperpolarizability in a highly conjugated organic polymer, comprising introducing gap states with the appropriate energy in the polymer.

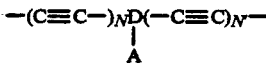
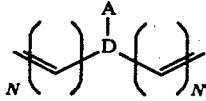
11. The method of claim 10 wherein said gap states are introduced by inserting a moiety in the chain which donates or accepts electrons.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said polymer has a structure selected from the group consisting of



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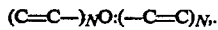
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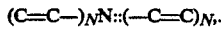
where X is selected from the group consisting of a heteroatom, carbon defect, a benzene ring having and electron donor or electron acceptor attached thereto, a pyridine with its nitrogen coordinated to a metal species acting as an electron donor or electron acceptor, platinum, palladium, and a stable free radical species, and where D is a donor moiety, A is an acceptor moiety, N and N' each range from 0 to 40, and the total of N and N' ranges from 10 to 40.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said heteroatom is selected from the group consisting of oxygen and nitrogen.

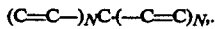
14. The method of claim 13 having the structure



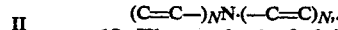
15. The method of claim 13 having the structure



16. The method of claim 13 having the structure



17. The method of claim 13 having the structure



18. The method of claim 12 wherein said metal species is selected from the group consisting of ruthenium, iron and cobalt.

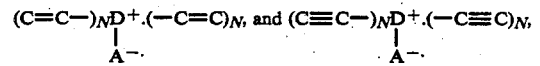
19. The method of claim 12 wherein D is selected from the group consisting of tetrathiafulvalene and porphyrin and wherein A is selected from the group consisting of tetracyanoquinodimethane and quinone.

20. The method of claim 10 wherein said gap state is introduced by doping said polymer such that there is no more than one dopant event per polymer chain.

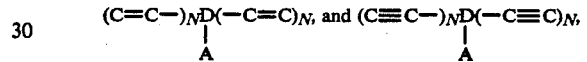
21. The method of claim 20 wherein said dopant is selected from the group consisting of AsF_6 and I_2 .

22. The method of claim 10 wherein said gap states are introduced by synthesis of a conjugated polymer containing a photoexcitable species capable of reversibly transferring its electron to an acceptor.

23. An optical switch which is activated by light, said switch including a polymer having the structure selected from the group consisting of



in the charge transfer state, and



in the ground state.

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